



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



**Week Ending: November 23, 2014**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2014

It was a cold week for the Commonwealth. Temperatures were about 10 degrees below normal for this time of year; some locations reports temperatures below zero when including wind chill. Rainfall was scattered, but most places experienced some rainfall this week. Days suitable for fieldwork were 5.7. In some locations, small grains, cover crops, and pasture conditions improved with the recent rainfall; however, other locations did not receive enough water for any noticeable improvement. Livestock producers increased feed rations to compensate for the cold weather; there are concerns that there may be a shortage of feed this winter. Other farming activities for the week included preparing burley and dark fire tobacco for market, applying herbicides to small grains, preparing cattle for market, and planning for 2015 seed purchases.

### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 23, 2014	1	21	74	4
November 16, 2014	2	24	70	4
November 9, 2014	3	26	68	3
November 2, 2014	2	19	74	5

### SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
November 23, 2014	4	19	74	3
November 16, 2014	4	22	71	3
November 9, 2014	6	24	67	3
November 2, 2014	5	23	69	3

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension  
Service**

**Virginia Tech**

**Virginia State University**

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Soybeans	0	4	21	63	12
Barley	0	0	27	66	7
Winter Wheat	0	0	21	76	3
Livestock	1	4	25	55	15
Pasture	2	19	31	39	9
Hay, Alfalfa	0	13	39	44	4
Hay, Other	3	20	32	42	3

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Cotton Harvested	90	66	86	87
Peanuts Harvested	100	99	99	100
Corn for Grain Harvested	99	94	99	98
Soybeans Harvested	82	72	83	77
Winter Wheat Seeded	89	71	87	86
Winter Wheat Emerged	71	49	59	68
Barley Seeded	97	95	97	99

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING November 23, 2014

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 To Nov 22	Mar. 1 to Nov 22 Norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	44	21	54	13	33	-13	4017	3959	0.47	5.81	-3.71	39.80	0.79
Norfolk	54	32	74	25	43	-9	4770	4469	0.20	11.49	1.76	43.91	2.10
Richmond	50	28	58	18	39	-9	4708	4327	0.96	5.22	-4.62	30.89	-9.22
Roanoke	45	25	52	18	35	-12	4088	na	0.84	6.05	-3.25	34.61	-4.27
Wash/Dulles	42	22	52	13	32	-13	3747	na	0.72	5.00	-4.61	41.19	3.41

\* Normal based on 1981-2010 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### NORTHERN

#### **FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)**

Farmers are still harvesting soybeans and corn.

### WESTERN

#### **HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)**

Very cold conditions prompted many producers to feed hay or extra hay as temps plummeted to single digits and wind chills below 0 F.

#### **ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)**

Cold and dry conditions characterized this week with rain showers and warm temperatures Sunday night to end the week. Most farmers are current on field work. Many livestock producers are already feeding hay that would not normally start feeding hay until mid December - this due to dry conditions late August through early October.

### CENTRAL

#### **APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

Winter wheat was slow to emerge due to dry conditions. The rain just received (last night) should help improve conditions greatly. Dark and Burley tobacco preparation for market continues.

#### **CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)**

Recent rains are getting the soil back to good moisture levels and aiding in the growth of small grain.

#### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

We have been on a weather Merry Go 'Round this week....the emphasis has been on the ups and downs rather than the round and round; twice this week we have had low temperatures in the mid teens and this morning at 4:30 am it was 65 degrees with a stiff breeze from the south west. We had light misty rain overnight 11/23, but it was less than a quarter of an inch and did little to abate the arid condition.

#### **SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)**

Dry conditions have persisted throughout the month of November. Good harvest conditions, but poor conditions for wheat, barley and pastures and other forages.

### EASTERN

#### **ESSEX (Keith Balderson)**

Rainfall during the week helped restore topsoil moisture and will be beneficial to small grain crops and cover crops. Producers finished up soybean harvest. Some producers also made herbicide applications to small grain fields. Other activities included making seed purchases for 2015.

## **SOUTHWESTERN**

### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

Bitter cold weather for the past week, starting to feed hay to livestock. Cattle producers are getting ready for the heifer sale coming up the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and for VQA feeder calf sales.

## **SOUTHERN**

### **FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)**

Finally got some much needed rain in Franklin County on Sunday. Dry conditions. Still some corn grain and soybeans waiting to be harvested and manure to be spread.

### **LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)**

Soybean harvest is moving right along. The wheat is greening up the tobacco fields.

## **SOUTHEASTERN**

### **BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)**

Combing soybeans in full swing. Deer Season has opened. Small grains are being planted. Cooler weather this week has seen producers feeding extra hay to livestock.

### **PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)**

Soybean harvest made good progress late in the week as moisture levels dropped after rainfall on Monday. Double crop yields have been lower than full season soybean yields.

Yields have a wide range. Double crop 20-50 bushels/A and full season 30-50+ bushels/A. Some wheat is off to a slow start (emergence) with the cold temperatures over the past 10 days.

### **SUSSEX (Kevin Wells)**

Good fall like weather for harvesting cotton and soybean as growers race to get finished. Yields of cotton and soybeans are setting records and growers are well pleased. Small grain planting is almost finishes and stands look very good.